

## Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 AID-20 PC-04 EUR-25 NIC-01

DRC-01 /178 W

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R 101205Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9011

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4162

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION HOLDS POLITICAL RALLY

1. AN ESTIMATED 10 TO 15 THOUSAND PERSONS ATTENDED AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT POLITICAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, AT THE CIBAO STADIUM IN SANTIAGO. ORGANIZED BY THE PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DOMINICANO AND BACKED BY THE MOVIMIENTO DE INTEGRACION DEMOCRATICA, PARTIDO QUISQUEYANO DEMOCRATA, PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO SOCIAL CRISTIANO, MOVIMIENTO REVOLUCIONARIO CATORCE DE JUNIO, MOVIMIENTO POPULAR DOMINICANO, AND THE VOZ PROLETARIA, THE OPEN AIR POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION WAS THE FIRST PERMITTED BY THE GODR SINCE THE 1970 ELECTION CAMPAIGN. SPEAKERS INCLUDED SALVADOR JORGE BLANCO (PRD), GUARIONEX LLUBERES MONTAS (MIDA), ROGELIO DELGADO BOGAERT (PRSC), RAFAEL ROSARIO GALAN (PQD), CARMAN MAZARA VIUDA GOMEZ (MPD), AND IVAN RODRIGUEZ (14TH OF JUNE). WHILE STRESSING OPPOSITION UNITY AND CALLING FOR A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL DIGNITY, MUCH OF THE REHETORIC DURING THE TWO HOUR RALLY FOCUSED ON THE HIGH COST OF LIVING AND THE GODR'S EXPENDITURES ON "SUMPTUOUS PUBLIC WORKS," I.E., NATIONAL THEATER, MUSEUMS, PARKS, ETC. THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS RECORDED DURING OR AFTER THE GATHERING. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, POLICE

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UNITS MADE NO ATTEMPT TO INTERVENE IN THE PROCEEDINGS AND

MAINTAINED A DISCREET DISTANCE FROM THE STADIUM.

2. DURING THE MEETING, THE PQD DELIVERED ITS REPLY TO BOSCH'S AUGUST 16 PROPOSALS, THE SECOND OPPOSITION GROUP TO DO SO. (THE AMIAMA TIO GROUP HAD SUBMITTED ITS REPLY ON SEPTEMBER 26.) MESSAGES FROM JUAN BOSCH AND EX-GENERAL WESSIN Y WESSIN ADVOCATING OPPOSITION UNITY WERE ALSO READ DURING THE RALLY. THE EVENT WAS BROADCAST ON AT LEAST TWO MAJOR DOMINICAN RADIO STATIONS.

3. COMMENT: THE SANTIAGO MEETING WAS THE FIRST CONCERTED PUBLIC ACTION BY THE OPPOSITION IN THEIR QUEST FOR UNITY. NONETHELESS, THE TURNOUT WAS RELATIVELY SMALL, FALLING SHORT OF THE 30-50 THOUSAND PREDICTED BY OPPOSITION LEADERS. THAT THE GODR PERMITTED SUCH A POLITICAL RALLY PRIOR TO THE LEGAL OPENING OF THE CAMPAIGN SCHEDULED FOR NEXT JANUARY 2 REFLECTED 1) OFFICIAL CONFIDENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE OPPOSITION IS STRONG, AND 2) THE GODR'S DESIRE TO ENCOURAGE THE OPPOSITION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MAY 1974 ELECTIONS. THE GODR'S ALLOWING THREE MARXIST GROUPS TO PARTICIPATE IS A NOTE-WORTHY DEVELOPMENT SEEMINGLY CALCULATED TO FOSTER AN IMAGE OF TOLERATION ON THE PART OF THE GODR BUT ALSO OF A LEFTIST-LEANING OPPOSITION. THE LATTER IMAGE WOULD SERVE TO STRENGTHEN BALAGUER'S HAND AMONG POWERFUL AND INFLUENTIAL CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL CIRCLES WHICH WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY PREFER BALAGUER FOR A THIRD TERM TO A LEFTIST OPTION.

HURWITCH

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## Message Attributes

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